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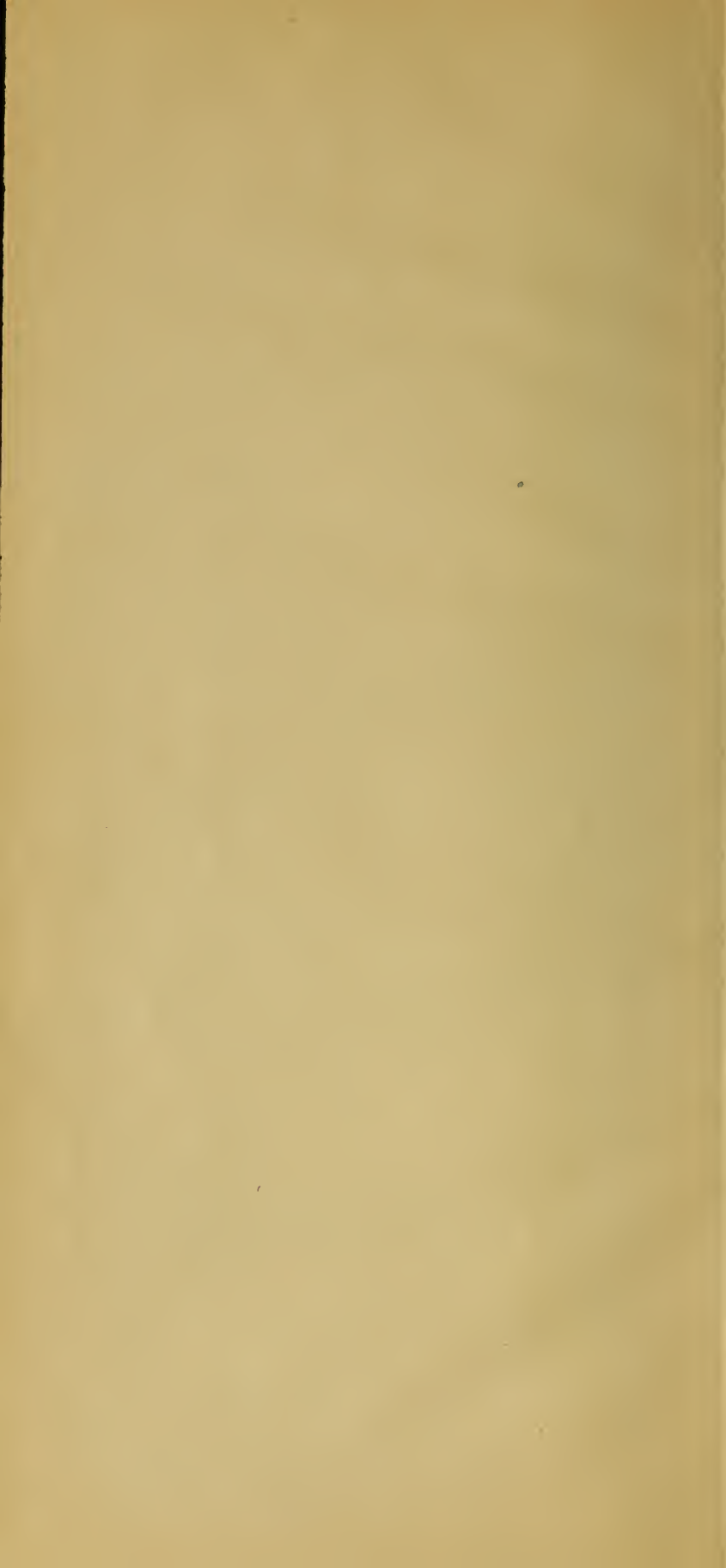
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HOLLAND AS SEEN  
BY AN AMERICAN





# Holland as Seen by an American.

BY

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AMSTERDAM. CENTRAL STATION.

“ I AM told, sir, that you are going to travel, and that you begin by Holland,” wrote Lord Chesterfield, in the first of his charming “Letters to His Son.” He evidently approved of his son’s intention to enter the Continent of Europe through this natural gateway, and succeeding generations have placed their stamp of approval upon this beginning for the “Grand Tour” by gladly following it.

For purely practical reasons, Holland is the ideal starting point for a thorough visit of Europe; it is almost the very centre of gravity of the Continent, its railroads reach out in all directions to carry the tourist into adjacent or far-away lands, and the natural desire to see again its many charms can be gratified by the necessary return for embarkation on the home-bound steamer.

Ideal  
starting  
point

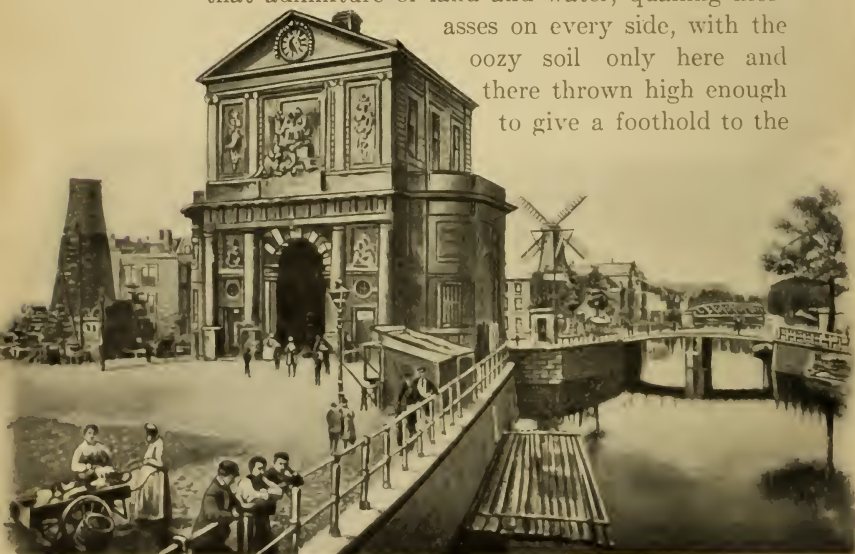
In thinking of such a trip, ghosts of the long ago come unbidden before the mind of the traveler. Flitting by he sees young Oliver Goldsmith, knowing nothing of Dutch, but bent on teaching the Dutch English, returning from his fruitless efforts penniless, with a flute as his capital and but little more as his baggage. Then comes Gibbon, as yet a youth, back from his tour, the “Fall and Decline” unthought of, hurrying, as he says with regret, through Holland—that “monument of freedom and industry.” Close behind is Sir Joshua Reynolds, astonishing the Netherlanders with his ear-trumpet, and writing home delighted to Burke: “The face of the country is unlike anything else; the length and straightness of the artificial roads, often with double rows of trees which finish in a point; the perseverance of their industry and labor to form these dykes and preserve them in such perfect repair, is an idea that must

Ghosts  
of the  
long ago

occur to every mind and is truly sublime." After him is Smollett, in the guise of his hero, Peregrine Pickle, who distinguishes himself at Rotterdam by getting upset and nearly drowned with his Dutch friends, who are discovered, when landed, still smoking their pipes.

Then later shades pass before the traveler. The frail figure of Tom Hood, hurrying to Coblenz in search of health, turning his suffering into drolleries and punning on his own pains. John Quincy Adams follows: the youth who at thirteen was a student at the University of Leyden and at fourteen was secretary of the legation at St. Petersburg; and just behind him is Washington Irving, his quick eye and polished pen noting his "Tales of a Traveler," and at the same time gathering the inspiration for his "Knickerbocker's History." Then, foremost in the traveler's memory and esteem, the creator of Colonel Newcome. Thackeray's genial nature is warmed by the delightful newness of Holland, and his heart's feelings find expression when he says: "I feel a Dutchman is a man and a brother."

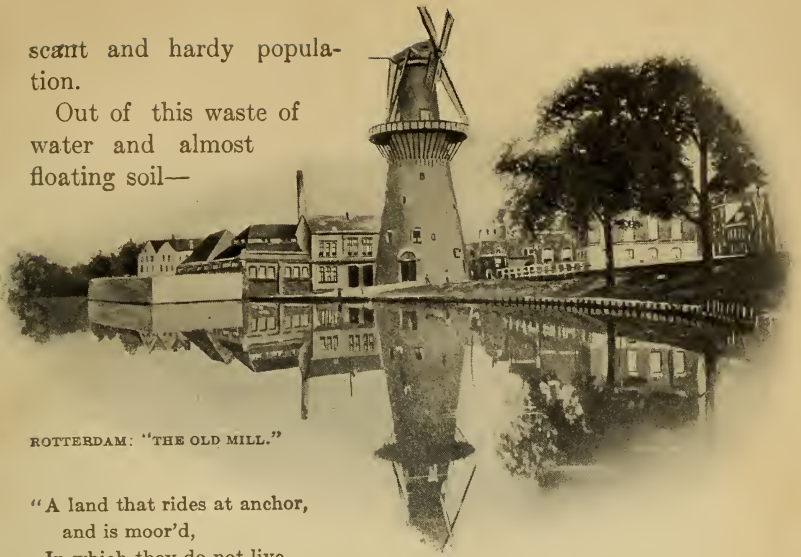
For a time Holland seems to have been forgotten, and the tourist did not realize that as much retirement and as many novelties are found on the shores of the Zuyder Zee as on the Sea of Galilee. When the Netherlanders were spoken of, there came the vision of the Batavia of Cæsar, that admixture of land and water, quaking morasses on every side, with the oozy soil only here and there thrown high enough to give a foothold to the



ROTTERDAM: DELFT GATE.

scarce and hardy population.

Out of this waste of water and almost floating soil—



ROTTERDAM: "THE OLD MILL."

"A land that rides at anchor,  
and is moor'd,  
In which they do not live,  
but go aboard,"

a noble people has created the fertile and productive home of a compact and prosperous commonwealth; has defended it in long and ferocious contests with the mightiest powers of Europe, and stands to-day the proudest example that our race has to show of conquest by patient and unflinching toil and devotion, over the combined opposition of nature and man.

A noble  
people

There is an injunction against building on the sand, but in Holland every house has to be built on the sand, and a whole coast-line is held together by ropes of sand cemented in place by the roots of unpretentious reed grass. By means of windmills, the air is made to pay toll, and by its power the seeping water is pumped from where it is not wanted into channels where it is permitted to run. The trees grow and the rivers flow, just as they are wanted. Air, earth and water are under control, and the result is—Holland.

It is a region of paradoxes, in itself an anomaly, and physical geography can scarcely admit its existence. Its history is a subversion of the laws of nature, and all of its successes have been won by a perpetual struggle with the elements. The ocean has said to the Hollanders, "You shall have no land here." The Hollanders said to the ocean, "We will have a country here;" and they had one in spite of water, winds and waves. Holland, more than any region under the sun, illustrates the power of industry and perseverance.

Land of  
paradoxes

Combat  
with  
nature

One never combats nature with abstractions. In Holland man is inevitably kept face to face with realities by the watchful care which his very existence demands and the material obstacles which must be conquered at every step. Patriotism never becomes dormant because the land shows in its scars its own history, and love for home glows at the reckoning of the cost of its retention.

We saw this little nation, almost imperceptible on the map of the world during the sixteenth century, build dykes and contest with the sea for supremacy. In their struggle against Spain they preferred to treat with the sea than with the Duke of Alva; and when no longer able to cope with a superior force, they cut the dykes and flooded provinces, preferring to drown themselves with the land of their creation than to live upon soil outraged by the feet of foreign foes.

Struggle  
for  
freedom

Here was the center of the great struggle for freedom, both religious and political, won with difficulty for Europe, and at the cost of horrible sufferings to the inhabitants of these industrious well-doing cities. Here arose ingrained leaders, if ever any existed, who gave up prosperity so dear to them for the sake of what to some seem only mere abstract questions; here women and children helped in fighting the good fight, both exhorting their mankind not to yield, and themselves fighting on the ramparts. Here William the Silent, Barneveldt, De Witt, Prince Maurice, and William III revolved their great schemes of European policy and moved the strings that moved the world.

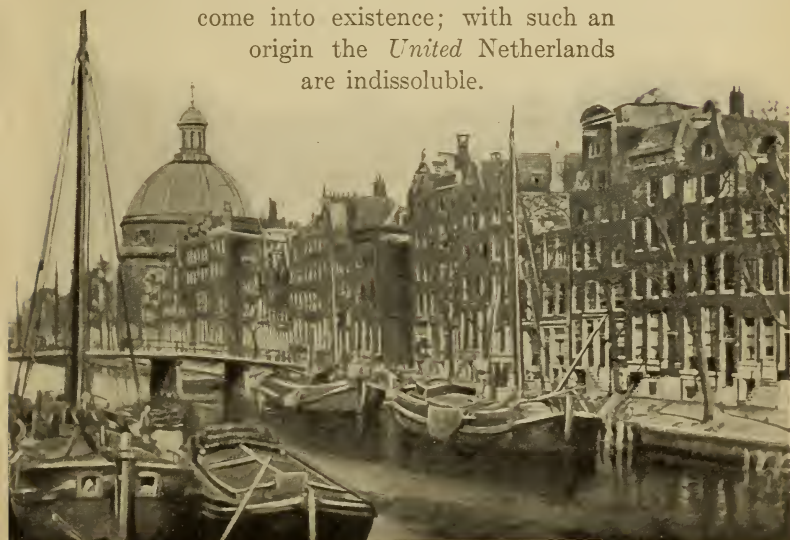


ROTTERDAM' MILLS ON THE BOESEM.

In most countries wealth begets idleness. In Holland never. A little crevice in the dyke, unnoticed for a few hours might permit the devastation of a district, and even with the most watchful care, the possessions of one day are no guarantee of the wealth of the next.

When one community is rejoicing over its escape from inundation, the people near by may be counting up their losses in life and property; thus one sympathizes with the other; the possibility of a coming misfortune—which is a part of every Dutchman's to-morrow—makes everyone generous, and the hundreds of charitable institutions in Holland prove that this generosity assumes tangible form. "Have no fear for Amsterdam," said Louis XIV, "I firmly believe Providence will save her because of her benevolence to the poor."

In this fragmentary country, broken into parts by lakes, and cut into pieces by rivers and canals, interest centred around localized systems of hydraulics. Thus one community was a unit in those vital matters of sustenance and self-preservation, and its people naturally felt a greater allegiance to the local government than to a centralized power. Then, the liberty of the village led to the liberty of the individual. Under such conditions an empire could never have come into existence; with such an origin the *United Netherlands* are indissoluble.



AMSTERDAM A CANAL STREET.



ROTTERDAM: A CANAL STREET.

**Discipline**      When the surging waters approach dangerously near the vulnerable points of an important dyke, every shovelful of earth must count; the opposing forces must be placed and used to the best advantage, and safety is assured only when obedience is obtained. Discipline therefore is a shining Dutch trait. This constant struggle places success as the only accepted goal of every effort, but the effort to be availing must be concentrated. One man working alone cannot build a dyke, neither can he check in time a threatened break. Labor, therefore, can never be selfish and individual. The lesson learned in the war with the sea becomes a guide in organizing the battle with competition, and guilds and corporations are the result.

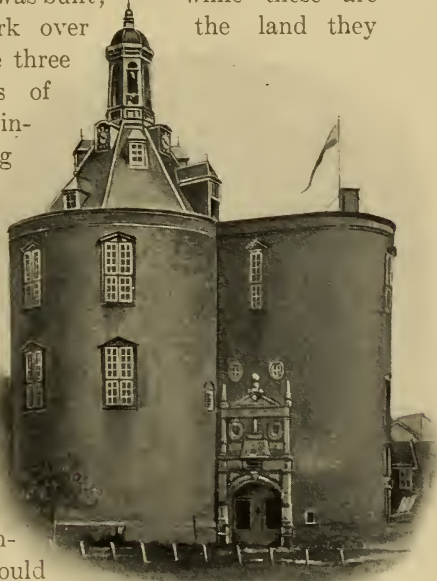
**Science and industry**      Without science and industry such a land would never have beheld the light of day, and but for the incessant vigilance of its people it would soon perish. Its creation is a miracle of human genius; its preservation is a monument to man's skill. The genius of Babylon proudly boasted, "It is I who made the Euphrates," but culture upon its banks did not continue long after its making. The genius of Holland even in a greater sense can say, "It is I who made the Rhine, the Maas, and the land through which they flow," and culture upon their shores grows with the passing years.

The work accomplished here, the strengthening of defences, the pumping dry of lakes whose beds were coveted by the thrifty farmers, and the



building of substantial roads and canals surpass all other systems of public improvements, except it be our own 30,000 miles of railroads over mountains, across rapid, broad rivers, and along shaky morasses. "Talk of the Pyramids of Egypt as monuments of man's skill and industry! mere warts, pimples on the surface of the country which once belonged to them and to which they now belong; neither useful nor ornamental—exhibiting neither great skill nor great goodness in their design or execution. Talk of the Chinese Wall as a monument to be admired! Broad, indelible mark of the imbecility of the three hundred millions of people who built it—a single line of no more work to the mile than some single lines of dykes—that never answered even the ignoble purpose for which it was built; while these are a perfect network over the land they preserve. Create three hundred millions of

Dutchmen, and instead of building walls to protect themselves against the Tartars, they would wipe every encroaching Tartar off the face of the earth. Create three hundred millions of Dutchmen, and they would bring home the Chinese



ENKHUIZEN.

Wall, lay it in a dam across the Straits of Gibraltar, and pump the Mediterranean down the throat of Vesuvius."

Everyone who wishes to see the highest rewards paid for industry, thrift and economy should visit Holland. Not for a single day, but for a week or even longer; long enough to become inoculated with the spirit that has made its people famous in literature, science and art, as well as in the industrial world. The inhabitants of a country are what the external influences make them, and its geography is a preface to its history, as well

as a key to the understanding of the people's habits, genius and institutions. In no other land is this so clearly true as in the Hollow-land, and the tourist who wishes to bring home something more than memories of cities, monuments and cathedrals—who wants to feel his soul made larger by coming close to influences that are character-building, should include in his itinerary this birthplace of religious freedom, public schools and civil government.

Hallowed  
places

In this fair land he can visit places hallowed in years gone by by the presence of the world's greatest men. Snell, who was the first person to make an attempt to determine accurately the size and shape of the earth, lived in Leyden, the city that so hospitably opened its doors to the English Puritans, afterward the Mayflower Pilgrims. Erasmus, "who laid the egg that Luther hatched," was born in Rotterdam, and Bayle, whose boast it was that he was a Protestant of Protestants, for he protested against all systems, and all sects, lived there. The quiet village of Voorburg was the home of Vossius, who, as professor of eloquence in the University of Leyden, and as a prolific writer, left an impress upon his own and upon succeeding generations greater by far than could be the boast of any of his contemporaries. Here too, Spinoza, so misunderstood, so maligned, and then so revered, found a home. Delft is proud of having given to the world Grotius, the publicist, prodigy of Europe, who at nine years of age wrote Latin verses, and at eleven composed Greek odes.



ZAANDAM WIND-SAWMILLS.



LEYDEN: "HOME OF THE PILGRIMS."

The mariner's compass is the invention of a Hollander. Jansen, a spectacle maker of Middelburg, invented the telescope. The thermometer was introduced into Northern Europe by a Dutch physician; the first newspaper printed in Europe was in Dutch; and Leeuwenhoek was the founder of microscopy.

Dutch inventors

It was while a soldier at Breda that Descartes became interested in mathematics, the science to which he afterward made so many valuable contributions. Huyghens brought glory not only to his native country, but to all of Europe. Boerhave became so famous that a letter addressed by a Chinese mandarin to "Boerhave, physician of Europe," promptly reached him. With Holland will remain forever in the field of typography, the incontestable glory of the Elzevirs, and the honor of having printed the works of almost all the great writers of the age of Louis XIV; of having diffused throughout Europe the French philosophy of the eighteenth century; and of having gathered up, defended, and propagated human thought when proscribed by despotism and denied by fear.

The lovers of art *must* go to Holland, for the Dutch painters are supreme, and there is reason to believe that a painting by Hobbema or by Rembrandt will find admirers when "Correggio and stuff" will be disregarded. The gorgeous acres of canvases covered by Rubens, the magnificent Rembrandts, the little jewels of color by

Dutch art

Terburg, Wouermans, Gerard Dow, Ostade, Mieris, and Both; the wondrous portraits where Van der Helst, Frank Hals, and Vandyck represented their men and women; the landscapes at which Ruysdael, Hobbema, Cuyp, P. Potter, and Berghem labored so industriously, all fill us with wonder



ROTTERDAM: STATUE OF ERASMUS.

at the quantity as well as the quality of their beautiful work. There is not a gallery in Europe, public or private, of any renown, which does not contain many specimens of each of the good Dutch masters.

Picturesque  
houses

Nothing can be more picturesque than the infinite variety of queer gables and pediments, the scrolls and windows in the canal streets. For hundreds of years whole streets of tall houses in the old cities have nodded their heads so near together that their jutting griffins and gorgons have almost lapped each other's grim jaws; but there they grin just as fierce to view and just as harmless to touch as centuries ago. Holland, indeed, is like a cabinet picture by one of its native artists—so wonderfully exact, highly finished, and thoroughly worked up in every thing.

The clean, well-sembled Dutch houses themselves are not better kept and tended, for that matter, than is all out-of-doors in Holland. One would think the rain that fell from Heaven was soap and water, and that once a week the farms

were swept and dusted for Sunday. Even the little bushes seem to have grown afraid to stir when a breeze came to play with them, lest they should rumple their leaves, and be called untidy.

A sturdy race

The Dutch, though a sturdy race, have ever found their greatest comfort within doors, driven thither by their treacherous climate, and the outcome has been, not only the adornment and beautifying of the interior and the objects of domestic use, but the foundation of a distinctive school of art which has immortalized this tendency. It is no wonder that the Dutch school finds its greatest masters in the painters of interiors, for no more paint-able or artistic houses ever existed. Likewise, in this fact, may be found the impulse that expressed itself in the rich porcelains, the carved cabinets and the heavy paneled doors.

In the long, still, winter twilight many a plow handle has been lovingly decorated with a ram's horn



MIDDELBURG: CITY HALL.

spiral to serve the double purpose of grip and ornament. The churndasher ending in a rude, though charmingly cut, Holland lion, done over the dull glow of a turf fire, is much more beautiful than a steam churn, no matter how much red paint or impossible cows a hasty manufacturer has stenciled upon it.

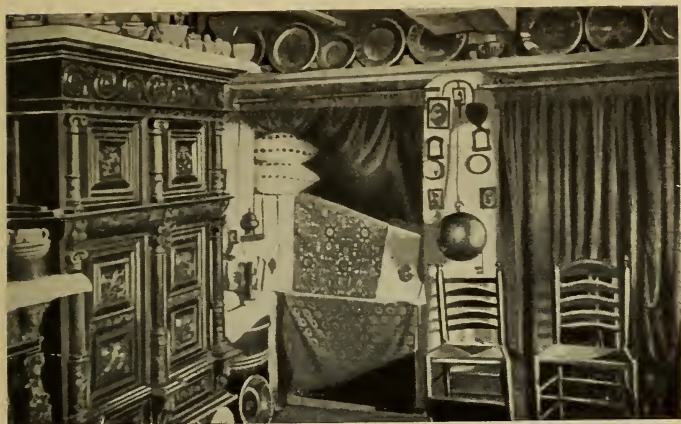
The  
Rhineland

The longings, if not inspiration, of an artist come over one as he roams over the region around about Leyden, where a thousand years ago the sea dammed the mouth of the Old Rhine with sand and the whole tract between Leyden and Katwyk was changed into a feverish swamp. The site of this swamp, still locally called the Rhineland, is now a smiling land of gardens and sound meadow. Through it, what remains of the Old Rhine runs between banks set for miles with blazing beds of hyacinths and scarlet tulips, till it



AMSTERDAM; A CANAL STREET.

enters the desert region of the sand dunes. Here the Dutch have cut through the hills and once more given to the river its ancient exit to the sea, barred by double sluices of granite and steel. The tulip beds creep on by the river-side into the dunes, the scarlet patches divided by mounds of sedge-



ISLAND OF MARKEN. HOUSE INTERIOR.

covered sand, on which the Rhineland fishermen's nets are laid to dry, and the Rhineland fisher-children sail their models of the flat-bottomed fishing boats.

Over these sunny flats, chequered with broad cloud shadows, the son of a Leyden miller has strolled, note book in hand, and his quick brown eye and ready pencil have noted all the landscape's changing moods. It has altered but little since young Van Ryn, immortal as Rembrandt, studied hereabouts, and the traveler can see from the railway carriage the spot by the Leyden ramparts where he lived close beside his father's mill. The life here left an impression upon the receptive artist and showed itself in his work until crowded out by a girl's face: first a young face archly smiling; then as Queen of the Fairies; later in rich dresses and jewels; and later still, as a matron by her husband's side. It is Saskia von Ulenburgh, the painter's wife. It has been said that Rembrandt's style is emblematical of his life, which alternates from the full flood-light of happiness to deep shadow and gloom. The year of 1692 is marked with the strongest light and shadow; "the artist's greatest triumph, the man's greatest loss." He painted the "Night Watch"—

Van Ryn  
and  
Rembrandt

Amsterdam's pride and greatest treasure—and his fame was brightest; the shadow fell, and he followed his girl wife to the tomb.

Coloring  
and light

If you wish to know the source of their artist's skill in coloring and light, go and study Dutch scenery, especially in North Holland, and you will soon discover how the landscape painters learned to deal with the sky and to reproduce its many glints in their works. They simply copied with consummate skill what they saw before them. Become familiar with the history of the sixteenth century, the fresh, vigorous, free life of the United Provinces as they threw off the yoke of Spain, and you will understand how, almost at a bound, Dutch portraits and landscape paintings reached the zenith.

Rigorous  
climate

The rigorous climate allowed but a brief time for the admiration of nature, and for this reason the Dutch artists gave to her an admiration all the more intense. When spring at last broke through the icy bands of winter, she was hailed with a lively joy, and, knowing that her sojourn would be short, her many moods and phases, whims and fancies were duly noted. The rare smiles of summer made burning impressions, and the bright days of autumn, reminders of past glories and harbingers of the dreariness ahead, took possession of the painter's memory. Then, when the landscape artist began to paint, the flat, monotonous country took on a marvelous variety, all of the mutations of the sky clamored for expression, and the water with its reflections, its

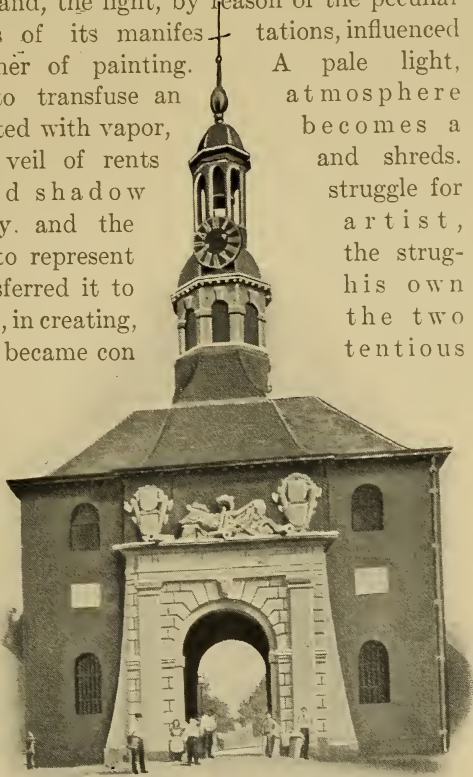


PARK IN THE SAND DUNES.



grace and freshness illuminated everything. Having no mountains, a dyke became a background; deprived of forests, a simple group of trees took on all the mystery of a forest; and white sails and beautiful cows animated the whole.

In Holland, the light, by reason of the peculiar conditions of its manifestations, influenced the manner of painting. A pale light, striving to transfuse an atmosphere becomes a nebulous veil of rents and shreds. Light and shadow struggle for supremacy. and the artist, seeking to represent his own the two elements became contentious



LEYDEN: ZEIL GATE.

under his hand. "He accumulated darkness that he might split and seam it with all manner of luminous effects and sudden gleams of light; sunbeams darted through the rifts; sunset reflections and the yellow rays of lamplight were blended with delicate manipulations into mysterious shadows, and their dim depths were peopled with half-seen forms."

In yet another field are the Dutch painters great—the sea. The sea, their enemy, their power and their glory, forever threatening their country, and entering in a hundred ways into their lives and fortunes; that turbulent North Sea, full of sinister colors, with a light of infinite melancholy upon it, beating forever upon a desolate

coast, which it obstinately demands, must subjugate the imagination of the artist.

Realism  
and detail

Realism, natural to the calmness and slowness of the Dutch character, was to give to their art still another distinctive feature—finish. Patience, so palpably a national trait, can be plainly seen in their pictures. Everything is represented with the minuteness of a photograph; every vein in the wood of a piece of furniture; every fibre in a leaf, the threads of cloth, the stitches in a patch, every hair upon an animal's coat, every wrinkle in a man's face—all finished with microscopic precision, as if done with a fairy pencil, or at the expense of the painter's eyes and reason.

Political  
example

If the lovers of art should visit Holland to become possessed of those inspirations which found expression in the world's masterpieces, still more incumbent is such a pilgrimage upon all who are in sympathy with free thought and religious and political liberty. We, in common with the people of modern Europe, are indebted to Holland for lessons in the true purposes of civil government. It gave to America the example of a country struggling for liberty, and showed our people that even by the horrors of war the highest principles can be vindicated. It taught Europe everything else. It instructed the farmers of the world in systematic agriculture. It gave to navigation its greatest impulse, made voyages of discovery popular, and founded rational commerce.



ZAANDAM, LANDSCAPE.



FISHING ON THE CANAL.

Its learned scholars enriched the world's thought, its physicians and physicists extended the boundaries of knowledge, and from its banks and counting-houses came the soundest principles of finance and economics. In short, there was a time when this little plot of land held within its boundaries precepts and examples for the civilized world.

In Holland, international law, or the rights of nations, was for the first time placed on a recognized foundation. When not engaged in struggling for their own rights, they were enabling others to live in the full enjoyment of theirs. Thus the Jews, despised because of their thrift, robbed because they were wealthy, and persecuted because they held fast to the rites and traditions of their fathers, found an asylum among the Dutch. The Jansenists when expelled from France found in Utrecht homes and the unneeded, unexpressed permission to speak their views openly.

International  
law



AN INTERIOR.



DELFT: EAST GATE.

Locke wrote his "Essay on the Human Understanding," while a fugitive, driven from Oxford and declared a "plotter against the life of King James and the peace of the nation." When Shaftesbury was obliged to leave England, he made Holland his home, as did many others, who escaped, by so doing, a home within the dismal Tower.

Historical  
cities

Nearly every city in Holland finds its name on at least one page of the world's history: thus Dort entertained the famous synod which adjusted the religious differences between the Calvinists, the Lutherans, and the Arminians. At Ryswyk, was signed in 1697, the treaty that made peace between England, France, Germany, Holland and Spain; and sixteen years later Utrecht witnessed a similar ceremony enacted by the representatives of England, Holland, Germany and Savoy. This country, small as it is, has been sought in allegiance by every great European power except Russia, and in every instance the allies have learned lessons that have been beneficial—honesty, if nothing more. Leyden, in recognition of her heroism in withstanding the Spanish siege for one hundred and thirty-one days, was given the choice between exemption from certain taxes, or a university. She wisely chose the latter, and thousands have been blessed by her wise choosing.

Revival of  
learning

The history of the revival of learning and the unfolding of science, is written in a large measure

in the annals of the university at Leyden. Preachers and professors, banished from their own countries on account of their religious faiths, received grants to sustain them in their distress and to help them to continue their work. It was here that Boerhave instituted the modern system of clinical instruction in medicine. His theory of the balance of humors in the system, translated into more exact scientific phrase in the light of modern research, has a clear and definite meaning. Engineering, so important to the Dutch, received its greatest impulse in the founding here, in 1590, the first school of engineering.

It is pleasant to linger about the Town Hall here, and to fraternize with the gaily painted stone lions who have for three hundred years done duty as watchful guardians. They looked down on Oliver Goldsmith; on the youthful Philip Stanhope, receiving and sometimes reading Lord Chesterfield's letters; on the studious Boswell, getting Johnson's kindly advice and counsel; on Evelyn, deep in botany, and Adams, deep in linguistics; all of whom attended with more or less attention the lectures of Leyden's great professors.

These are only a few of Holland's claims for a part of the tourist's time, but if they have been

Leyden town hall



GRONINGEN: MARKET PLACE.



DORT: CITY HALL ON A CANAL STREET.

put forth with anything like the attractiveness they deserve, the reader will by this time be ready to resolve to visit this charming land at the earliest possible date. I have spent three entire summers in Holland, and shall not neglect a single opportunity to go there again, and if I can induce you to come aboard the good ship *Rotterdam*, and journey across the sea to spend weeks rather than days, or days instead of hours, in the country which the "Dutch have taken," I shall be able to count one more who is under obligations to me.

Lord  
Bacon's  
warning

To travel in Holland, it is unnecessary to heed the warning of Lord Bacon, that one who went to a country before he made himself acquainted with the language, went to school and not to travel. Any man with ordinary intelligence will be able to find his way anywhere, and be under no apprehension of being cheated because of his ignorance.

There is no place in Europe where the American will feel so much at home as in Holland. It is, therefore, the country first to be visited and the last which one should leave. The Dutch mind is quite like the American in its methods of thought. There is the same intensity of feeling on all religious questions, the same revolting at oppressive

restrictions, and the same keen, practical genius.

There is no field of human enterprise in which their success has not been, at one time or another, notable. At the bottom of it all, apparently at the bottom of the character on which their success has been founded, we find their traditional jealousy of every acre of water which covers good land. If a lake is to be drained, they sit quietly down and count the cost, the time, and the interest that time will add to the cost, and then devise the most effective means; this done, the undertaking proceeds with the regularity and persistence of the work of ants.

Cause of  
success

As a people they hold stubbornly to their ancient customs; preserving almost intact, and despite the neighborhood of three great nations, their own individuality, and remaining, of all the northern races, that one which, though ever advancing in the path of civilization, has kept its antique stamp most clearly.

In approaching Holland, one sees a long, narrow ribbon of a picture with its little dots and spots and splashes of color here and there, more methodical than accidental, and somewhat like the pattern on a roll of wall paper. By looking through a glass, these dots of various shapes and sizes resolve themselves into windmills, cows, sheep, churches and steeples, and little red-tiled houses with green or blue shutters and chimney crowned

Approach to  
Holland



LEEUWARDEN MARKET PLACE.



UTRECHT: MARKET PLACE.

with storks' nests. We swing gently around into the artificial mouth of the Maas, past the "Hook," and in a short time we are within the Hollow-land.

The first question is one of surprise. "Is this the boasted river that circles through a part of France, forces its way across Belgium, and gives to Rotterdam its importance as a port?" It is and yet it is not.

The rivers

While listening to the explanation that follows, you will learn something of Dutch skill and determination. The tendency of the rivers of Holland, because of the slight fall they have, is to drop sediment, especially at their mouths. The sea has resisted this encroachment, causing the rivers to spread out into numerous branches so that no channel retains, unaided, the depth demanded by the larger vessels. The Maas lacked a safe

channel, so the Dutch engineers cut an artificial way from Rotterdam, and by controlling the flow



DOG CART.



of water through it and by incessant dredging, the requisite depth is maintained. The filling up of the channel in spite of this constant struggle necessitates the raising of the banks, and thus you glide along on water that is higher than the land about.

“Do these banks ever break?”

“Yes, sometimes.”

“What happens to the people?”

“They are usually prepared for such an emergency and make good their escape. Otherwise they are drowned.”

People  
always  
prepared

“And yet people do sleep in this country?” said Diderot.

Just within the “Hook” the custom officials come on board and go through the pleasant farce of examining your baggage, which has been placed on deck. The inspection is soon over, and the



ALKMAAR: MAIN THOROUGHFARE.

cabalistic marks on each parcel is your formal welcome to Holland.

Newspapers are brought on, and you recall how more than a week has passed since you saw a daily. For once you do not want the morning paper, for it is “all Dutch to you.”

The banks slope gradually, and are protected at the very edge by willow wattles. In front of these, in the water, grows a narrow belt of luxuriant rushes. As the following wave of a steamer sweeps the shore, these rushes bend before it and make a solid thatch over which the wave rolls without abrasion, and as it passes they resume their upright position ready for the next attack.



DRAINAGE CANALS.

Busy  
water-ways

This comes soon, for this busy thoroughfare is alive with passenger-boats, tugs, square-rigged vessels, canal boats, and all manner of craft.

One is struck by the number and variety of the boats one meets—apparently floating houses, for the women are on board, together with the dogs and the children.

Women, or boys, beginning with a basket, or with two baskets and a neck yoke, to distribute vegetables or fish in the villages, economize until they are able to own a dog and cart, or a boat, and consider themselves well-to-do for this life. A family rich enough to possess a boat sufficiently roomy for their joint existence, and that of a few tons of cargo, follow the business of freighting wherever change of season calls for change of route, but always continue "at home" in their migratory habitation.

When tied up at some wharf, acquaintances are formed and visits made which are returned sometimes in a distant city when the owners' boats may again be bumping against one another.



LEYDEN TOWN HALL.

The nautical expert will smile at the flat-bot-  
tomed boats which look as though a hatful of  
wind would endanger their safety, and so broad  
as to warrant the belief that they would not  
answer the helm. But they are strong and steady  
and can be sailed to a compass-point. A Dutch  
bargee is never idle as long as there is anything  
left to polish. The vessels are clean and shiny,  
the people clean and neat, the women wear the  
whitest of caps over their silver ornaments; there  
are pots of flowers, and even miniature gardens,  
in the tiny windows and on the decks, and there  
is a charming air of comfort and independent con-  
tentment about the vessel.

Dutch  
boats

As we sail along, we see on the banks, threading  
in and out, the ever-moving kaleidoscope of form  
and color. Resting in clumps of trees are the  
villas of the wealthy Rotterdamers, each with  
its name painted on gable or over the gateway.

River  
scenery

Every now and then, in the distance, the sail  
of a ship glides by, and, being in a canal invisible  
from that distance, it seems to be skimming over  
the grass of the meadows, appearing and disap-  
pearing behind the trees.

“Every inch of the “well-larded earth” is under  
the most loving and elaborate cultivation. Small  
wonder that the farm houses look pictures of home  
contentment; that the porches and arbors are  
overrun with vine and flowers; that the great  
brass door knockers and the gilded weather-cocks  
fill the sunshine with tinges of glinting gold.

But here we are at Delftshaven, the port from  
which the Plymouth pilgrims set sail, and now  
you must take out your guide-book to  
pilot you in your pleasure-giving tour.



SHEVENINGEN: DUTCH BOATS.



HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE TWIN-SCREW STEAMER ENTERING THE MAAS.

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## HOW TO REACH THE ART-CENTERS OF HOLLAND.

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**T**HE most direct and most convenient route from New York to Holland is via the Holland-America Line. The steamers of this line leave every Wednesday from their docks, foot of Fifth Street, Hoboken, N. J., and touching at Boulogne-sur-Mer for the landing of passengers to France and England, proceed direct to Rotterdam where passengers will arrive from ten to twelve hours later.

The present fleet for the regular mail and passenger service between New York and Rotterdam consists of the following new twin-screw steamers :

NOORDAM,  
RYNDAM,  
POTSDAM,  
STATENDAM,  
ROTTERDAM.

These twin-screw steamers are of enormous tonnage ; they are all provided with bilge keels and are luxuriously appointed ; they afford all possible comfort for passengers, and embody in their construction the latest improvements which tend to make a sea voyage a pleasure trip.

Illustrated hand-book and all other information about passage is promptly forwarded upon application to the general passenger offices of the Holland-America Line :

New York City,

39 Broadway,

Chicago, Ill.,

69 Dearborn Street,

Boston, Mass.,

115 State St., cor Broad St.,

St. Louis, Mo.,

cor. Locust and 9th Streets,

San Francisco, Cal.,

30 Montgomery Street,

Minneapolis, Minn.,

121 South Third Street,

New Orleans, La.,

219 St. Charles Street,

Toronto, Canada,

40 Toronto Street,

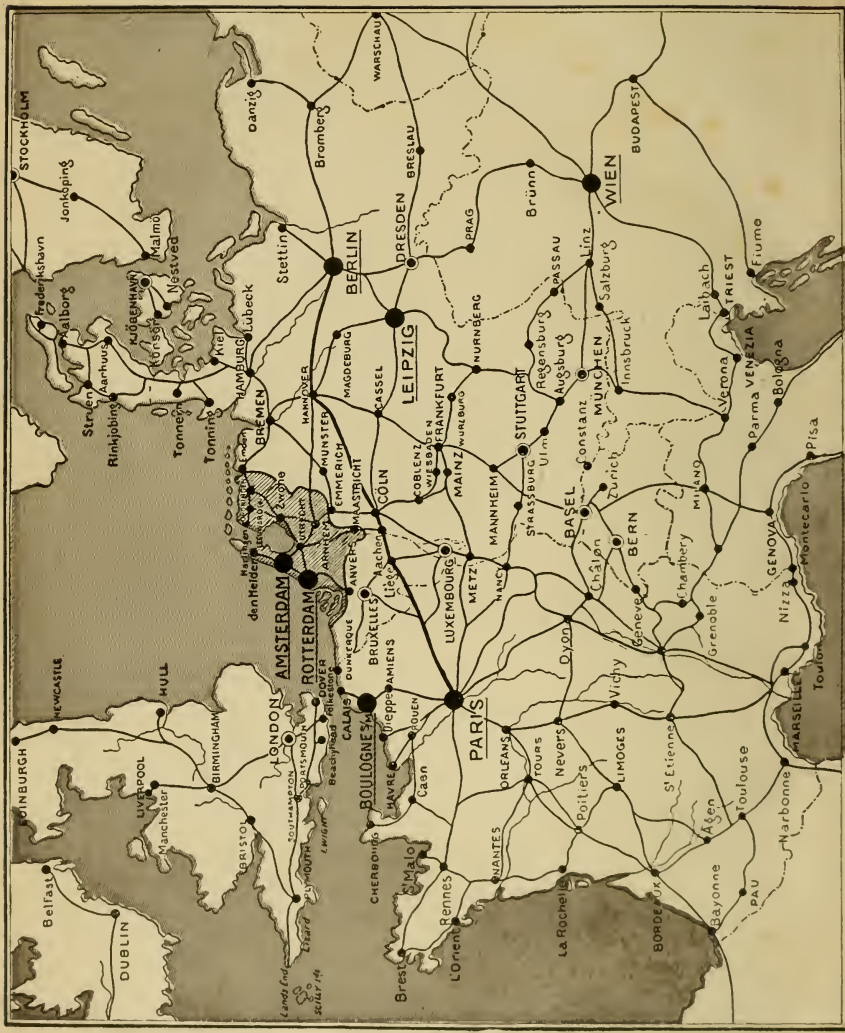
Montreal, Canada,

178 St. James Street,

or to local agents.

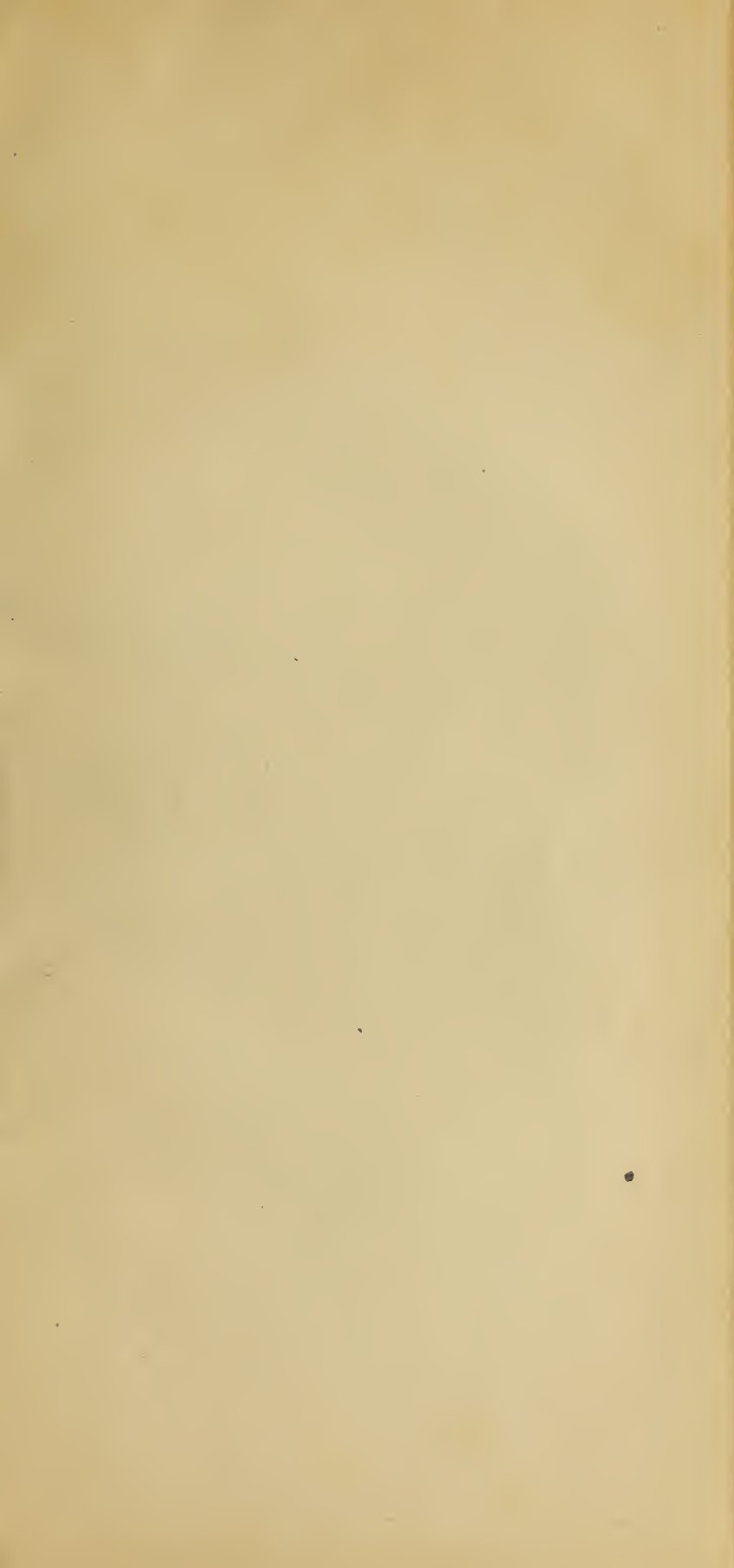


HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE TWIN SCREW STEAMER ARRIVING AT  
NEW YORK.



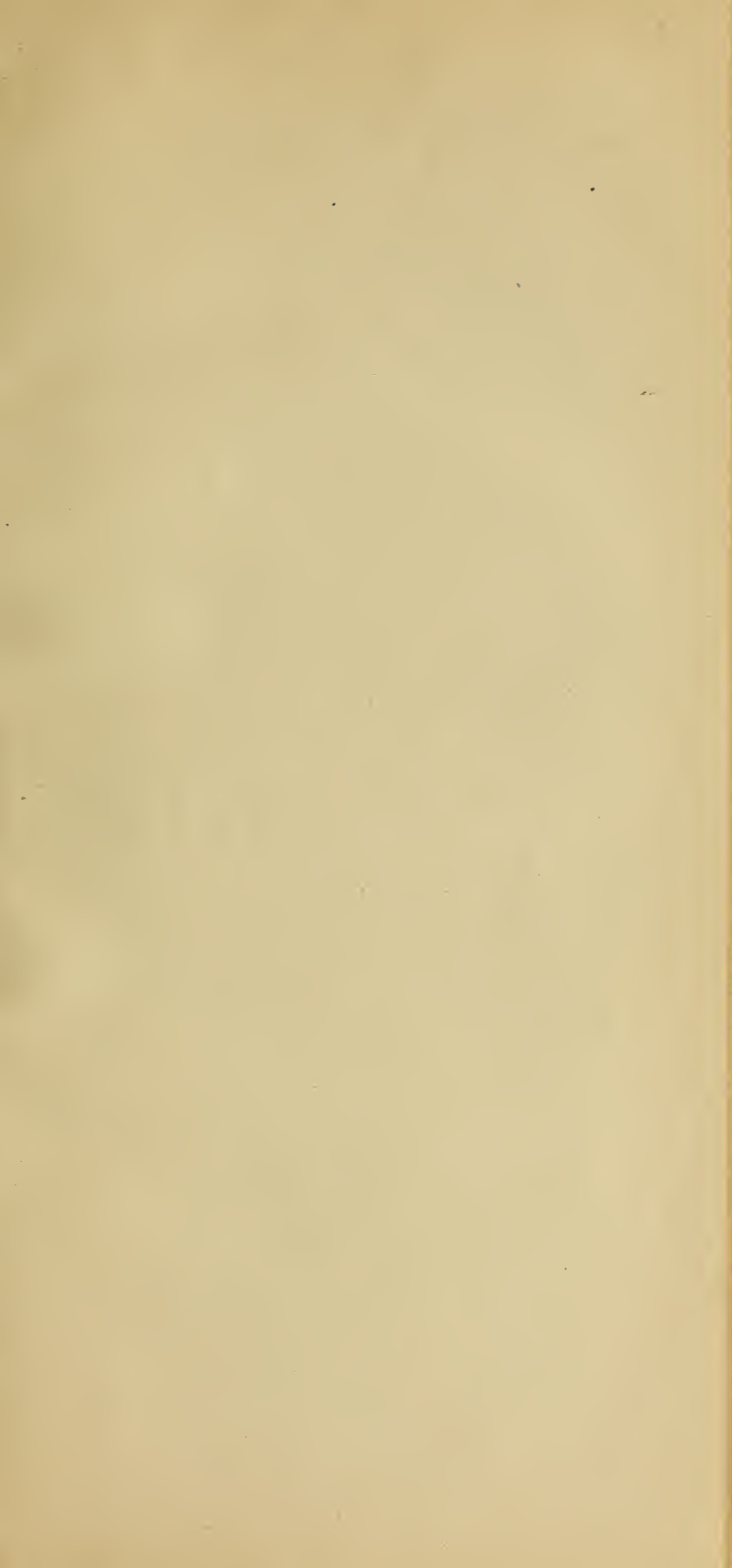
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